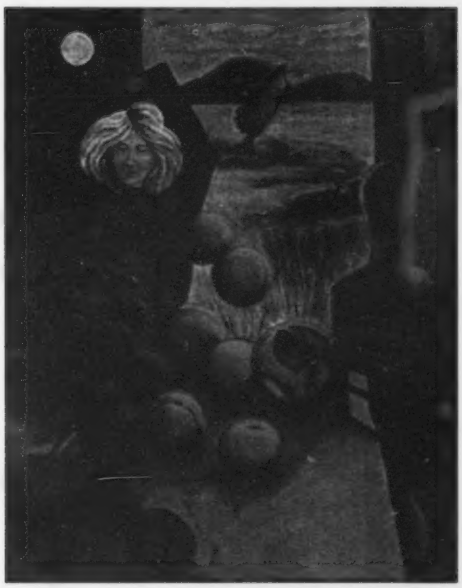
Annual Report 2008/2009



Activities
of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council
on the
Status of Women

April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

About the Cover Image

"Damn Damsons and Greengage" by Katharine Dagg
Acrylic, 2009
Katharine created this beautiful painting as a commission for the Women's Work(s) Art Promotion and Fundraiser in 2009.

About the Artist

In the past few years Katharine Dagg has been reconnecting with her painting, after spending thirty years as a production potter along with Sandi Mahon at Stoneware Pottery in Milton. Katharine studied at Ontario College of Art then moved to the University of Manitoba and graduated from there with her BFA. She worked as a design consultant, both on the marketing end and the production end of Canadian native art, in Ottawa and the Northwest Territories. She moved to PEI to teach design at The Handcraft Training Center, which later became Holland College. Pottery was the main focus of her working life with periodic bouts of drawing and painting sandwiched between pots and extensive gardening. Retirement has afforded her the time to explore her passion, the world of colour.

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

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September 2009

Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Docherty:

I am pleased to present you with the 2008–2009 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of Council's activities, publications, and collaborations with government from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Christian

Isabelle Christian, Chairperson

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Chairperson's Message

In 2007 I framed my remarks for the *Annual Report* in terms of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women's mandate. I have decided to follow the same pattern in 2008.

As a Council we are mandated **to act as a liaison and advisor regarding [equality] issues identified by communities and individual women**. The Council has scheduled its regular meetings in several geographic locations, and created opportunities to meet with local women at these venues. For example, in November 2008 the Council invited groups and individuals to its Montague meeting. The participants explored the theme of systemic violence against women while they prepared information cards for the upcoming Purple Ribbon campaign. Year-round, the Equality Report Card process actively seeks out community voices to identify issues and assess government's policy responses. In the winter, the Council also provided advice to the Provincial Treasurer's 2009 Pre-Budget consultations, advocating the application of a gender lens to the Province's financial and other decision-making.

As a Council we are mandated **to work collaboratively with community organizations and government systems toward equality for all women**. This role is an easy fit for the Council and staff because collaboration is a byword of women's work and equality work. The Council has submitted numerous letters and briefs to the provincial and federal government on topics such as smoke-

free places and the women's shelter, employment standards, and effects of the federal budget. Staff regularly maximize the Council's modest resources through coalitions and collaborations that connect us to communities of interest. The Equality Report Card process invited input from approximately fifteen community groups and organizations as well as departmental liaisons within government departments and agencies. Council reviewed and reconsidered these perspectives through several drafts before arriving at the final 2009 Report Card.

As a Council we are mandated **to listen to women and validate their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families**. Although the Advisory Council is not a store-front service, the staff appropriately receive enquiries and cries for help from women who cannot find help, or have exhausted what help exists. The most common need continues to be for civil law legal aid, especially for family matters. Government has improved availability of legal aid this year, but demand, especially regarding child custody, continues to outpace supply. (A detailed accounting of the scope of enquiries is provided on page 24 of this *Annual Report*.) The Council's booklet, *Moving On*, continues to be an important resource for women who need to understand the issues in safely leaving a relationship.

As a Council we are mandated **to provide leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness**. Perhaps we achieved our greatest public awareness impact in 2008–2009 through

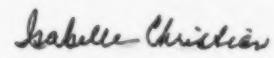
the theme of the Purple Ribbon campaign against violence. The theme "Men Take a Stand with Us" resulted in over 4,000 website visits, posters of more than 170 individual men pledging against violence, and positive comments on the work of the Council and the Province. The strength of our staff in the areas of visioning, organizing, writing, editing, and graphics contributes greatly to the Council's capacity in public education. As Chair I am very proud of their efforts and resulting publications on behalf of Council.

During the fall 2008 federal election, the Council distributed an innovative voter's door hanger and a voter's guide. We shared this guide with equality groups across Canada and was called "blue-ribbon work" by one of our counterparts. Now that we have completed a template, the Council will be able to circulate it on short notice, as befits the current Canadian political environment. The Advisory Council's mandate is broad, providing plenty of scope for equality work. As is evident from surveying the *Equality Report Card*, gender is an over-arching determinant of the effects that policy decisions will have on Islanders.

We see this most clearly through the lens of the most vulnerable women, such as those who survive on less than livable income. For this reason, poverty issues continue to be a priority focus for our Council. Action on women's economic status, including policy changes to support livable wages and incomes, food security, affordable housing, and access to childcare, will result in a better standard of living for many. People's health, for instance, gives us an

important window into their vulnerability, and it is established that income is the most important social determinant of health.

Just as improved economic well-being will improve the physical health of individuals and families, improved economic status for women will improve their capacity to fully participate in the social, cultural, economic, and political life of Prince Edward Island. It will diminish the effects of other vulnerabilities. What is more, our Province will benefit by women's participation and unique contributions: increased equality for all will help our Province to thrive and meet its full potential.



Isabelle Christian
Chairperson

About the Council

Mandate

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is a government-appointed provincial advisory agency made up of nine women who share a vision: respect and equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, or ability.

The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. Over the years, the Council has developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Advisory Council achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both the government and the community. The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. This act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

Roles of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- serves as a community arm to the provincial government
- acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women on PEI

- conducts research on these identified concerns and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces, and community consultations to promote equality
- informs the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women about events and issues concerning women's equality
- works collaboratively with community organizations and government systems towards equality for all women
- initiates and participates in projects and events of benefit to Island women
- responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations, and government
- listens to women and validates their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women
- meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

Meetings

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year.

At their meetings, Council members share their experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues; they discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government; they meet with government officials or community organizations; or they invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council Planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council Planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.

Advisory Council meetings, 2008–2009

- **99th meeting**: April 24, 2008, Charlottetown, PEI
- **100th meeting**: June 17, 2008, Stratford, PEI
- **101st meeting**: November 6, 2008, Montague, PEI
- **102nd meeting**: December 5, 2008, Charlottetown, PEI
- **103rd meeting**: March 11, 2009, Wellington, PEI

Council Meeting highlights, 2008–2009

- *April 24, 2008, Charlottetown, PEI – Equality Report Card Workshop*
  Council conducted a workshop to determine grades for government for the first Equality Report Card. Council members pored over evidence provided by government and by community organizations and tested it against research by Council staff and their own knowledge and experience. They reached consensus on draft grades for all areas. Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty and Interministerial Women's Secretariat representative Michelle Harris-Genge joined Council for a lunchtime meeting. Council had a short preparatory session for future Council Planning, facilitated by Elizabeth Grimmett.
- *June 17, 2008, Stratford, PEI – Equality Report Card Launch*
  Radio, television, and print media joined Council members and representatives of community organizations, unions, and provincial and federal governments for the release of the first Equality Report Card. Later in the day, Council set the direction for the 2009 Report Card, evaluating the pilot version and discussing process, priorities, and other ideas for next year.
- *November 6, 2008, Montague, PEI – Consultation with Equality-Seekers*
  Council hosted a Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee and round-table conversation about equality issues with a number of women equality-seekers from community organizations across the Island.

- *December 5, 2008, Charlottetown, PEI – December 6 Memorial Service*
  Council members helped prepare for and participate in the service in memory of the Montreal Massacre and other women victims of violence. All Council members played a role in a successful and moving service. In the afternoon, Chairperson Isabelle Christian led a discussion about what kinds of issues women raise when they call the Status of Women office, and how staff members respond to these enquiries.
- *March 11, 2009, Wellington, PEI – Consultation with Acadian Community*
  Thanks to the tremendous organizational energy of Council member Norma Gallant, Council members shared lunch with several members of the Acadian community, who shared their points of view on emerging and ongoing issues in their community. Council members also consulted with MLA Sonny Gallant about strategies to share Council messages with government members. Council accepted a new, updated Staff Handbook that had been approved by Council Executive and adopted a new, updated Council Handbook as by-laws of the organization effective April 1, 2009.

Council Executive Meeting Highlights

- *February 12, 2009, Charlottetown, PEI* – Members of Council's Executive and staff met formally in Charlottetown in February 2009 to set direction for organizational policy and procedures and to consult with MLA Cynthia Dunsford on the work of the Women's Caucus.

Members

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women. Women may now self-nominate for inclusion on Council through the "Participate in PEI" program.

Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms.

In December 2008, Jane Boyd resigned as Vice-Chairperson when she and her family relocated to British Columbia. Council members nominated Amanda Bulman as Vice-Chairperson and submitted this recommendation to government.

Isabelle Christian, Stratford — Chairperson
Council term: May 16, 2006, to June 13, 2009

Isabelle Christian of Stratford brings to Council her extensive experience as an educator in the school system and in adult learning and development, as well as a deep concern for the quality of women's lives. In 1996, Isabelle led the establishment of a Management Development Program for Women at the University of Prince Edward Island. Her work at UPEI has contributed to the establishment of the Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities, a learning event aimed at making connections between determinants of health and root causes of crime. She currently works with adult learners on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition. Isabelle and her husband Gerard reside in Stratford. They have three grown children.

Jane Boyd, Summerside — Vice-Chairperson
Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 2008 (resigned due to relocation)

Jane Boyd maintains a busy consulting practice that develops solutions related to employee management, work-life balance, child care, and human resource issues. For more than 20 years, Jane has been actively involved in the child care field. She has more than 12 years' direct experience supporting the development of Montessori programs and their related child care services for families.

Sadie MacKenzie, Montague — Treasurer
Council term: July 13, 2005, to December 31, 2010

Sadie MacKenzie of Montague worked in a nursing home for 22 years as a nursing attendant and activities coordinator. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and spent a term on Montague Town Council. She has three grown children. She currently works with the PEI Liquor Control Commission. She brings to Council her insight into the special challenges of women in abusive relationships in small Island communities.

Gwyn Davies, Gairloch — Member
Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Gwyn Davies of Gairloch is dedicated to working for women and children experiencing violence and fear of violence. Gwyn is the Outreach Worker for Eastern PEI Family Violence Prevention Services. Gwyn is a mother of three grown daughters. She lives with her husband in Gairloch where they have a home-based business raising turkeys.

Susan Connolly, Charlottetown — Member
Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Susan Connolly of Charlottetown is a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Prince Edward Island. She practices Corporate and

Commercial Law at Stewart McKelvey in Charlottetown. She is on the Boards of Women's Network PEI and Pat and the Elephant.

Roseanne Sark, Summerside — Member
Council term: July 13, 2005, to December 31, 2010

Roseanne Sark, a member of the Lennox Island First Nation, is a Health Policy Analyst with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI. Roseanne is a mother of two. She has a BA from Carleton University and is also certified with Reality Therapy. She has worked in the field of family violence prevention, research, recreation, cultural promotion and facilitation for various organizations including the Native Women's Association of Canada, Lennox Island First Nation, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Human Resources Development Canada and the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre. Over the years Roseanne has been part of numerous volunteer committees and executive boards.

Sister Norma Gallant, Wellington — Member
Council term: July 13, 2005, to December 31, 2010

Norma Gallant is a Francophone woman from the Evangeline area who has been involved in issues related to equality locally, regionally, provincially, and nationally for 30 years. She has been involved with issues such as teen dating; elder abuse; equality for women and men in church ministries in the French sector; abuse and harassment in sports; assistance for women to prepare

Victim Impact Statements; self-esteem. She does training in the Language of the Gifts of Character. She serves on the board of Family Violence Prevention Services (formerly called Transition House Association). Norma works at the Evangeline Community Consultative Group, especially on crime prevention work.

Pauline Thomson, Canoe Cove — Member
Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Pauline Thomson of Canoe Cove has worked as a child care specialist at the Anderson House Emergency Shelter and as a Kindergarten Program Supervisor at the Y.M.C.A. in Charlottetown. She was the International Volunteer of the Year, (PEI) recipient (2001), and currently volunteers at the Hospice Palliative Care Unit - Prince Edward Home. She is a member of the Canoe Cove Women's Institute.

Andie Bulman, Charlottetown — Member
Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Andie Bulman of Charlottetown has been actively involved in equality work at the UPEI campus including involvement at the UPEI Women's Centre, coordination of the PEIACSW Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee at UPEI, and had organized an International Women's Day Concert Fundraiser where a female cast entertained and raised funds for the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.

Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2008–2009. The Advisory Council hires one additional staff member on contract for project coordination, especially the Purple Ribbon Campaign, and to cover leaves.

Lisa Murphy, Executive Director

Lisa joined Council staff in May 1990. She resigned as Director in May 2000 and was asked to return to directing Council in May 2004. She works full-time.

Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst

Jane worked on contract for Council from 2000 to 2001. She returned in June 2004 to work full-time in research, policy analysis, and communications.

Becky Tramley, Office Administrator

Becky joined Council in October 1986 and works part-time.

Sandy Kowalik

Sandy works on a contract basis at the Council as project support and Purple Ribbon Campaign coordinator. In 2009, she began work as artistic coordinator of the Women's Work(s) Art Promotion and Fundraiser project.

Staff Development

- Staff initiated a day for coordinated file back-ups and office systems organization at the beginning of April 2008.
- Formal staff meetings and planning sessions took place May 1, July 3, July 16, September 19, September 30, October 28, December 10, December 19, February 3, February 10, and February 20, and covered topics including contents of the Staff Handbook and Council Handbook, strategic planning, Council meeting planning, and Purple Ribbon strategy and debriefing. Additional informal meetings and consultations took place as needed.
- Staff met formally with the Chairperson for Council planning and updates on April 10, May 15, May 29, June 4, September 22, January 21, and March 3, and additionally met informally as needed.
- Council and staff e-mail addresses changed at the end of 2008 with the sale of Island Services Network to Eastlink.
- In consultation with staff and Council, the Council ED developed a new, updated Staff Handbook outlining personnel principles, policies, and procedures. This was approved by Executive on February 12, 2009. The Council ED then developed a parallel Council Handbook which was approved for adoption by April 1, 2009.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Manitoba. The Quebec council receives all mailings and invitations.

List of Major Activities, 2008–2009

- Isabelle Christian and Lisa Murphy represented Council at a Coalition meeting in Ottawa, October 23 to 25, 2008. Coalition co-chairs from Northwest Territories and Nunavut also invited Jane Ledwell to attend the meeting to write minutes and reports.
- This year's Coalition meeting brought together representatives from PEI, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Newfoundland and Labrador, with written reports from New Brunswick.
- Sessions included the following:
    - sharing of innovative practices with representatives from Advisory Councils from other Provinces and Territories.

    - a presentation on gender budgeting and income splitting by Nancy Baroni from the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA)
    - a presentation by Jordan Leichnitz on the Pan-Canadian Young Feminists Gathering in Montreal
    - discussion on Council-building questions such as Council-member engagement, building effective relationships between governments and Councils, and encouraging strong Councils in all provinces and territories
- The PEI Status of Women representatives also attended a Persons Day Tea at the Famous Five Monument on Parliament Hill. This event was hosted by the Ottawa Women's Council on October 24.
- The Coalition of Advisory Councils decided to meet on Prince Edward Island, rather than in Ottawa, in October 2009. The PEI Advisory Council will host this meeting. At the time, Leslie MacLeod of the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women was selected to Chair the Coalition and its annual meeting for 2009. She later decided to complete her term in her position and at year's end the Coalition was making alternative plans for chairing the meeting.

Policy and Research

Equality Report Card

Since its inception, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has made recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. They have shared recommendations with government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in Policy Guides, correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, both independently and in partnership with other equality-seeking organizations.

In June 2008, the Advisory Council published its pilot Equality Report Card to assess government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality in PEI.

The Pilot Equality Report Card Preparation, to June 2008

- Council staff compiled information from questionnaire responses from all departments of government and from additional research and monitoring.
- Council staff provided a thorough summary of research to Council members and outlined a proposed process for setting draft grades.
- Council staff reviewed the 2008 Provincial Budget for estimates relevant to the Report Card and prepared a summary of these for Council to consider.

- Council members determined draft grades through a workshop process. All nine Council members reviewed evidence provided by government and by Council staff and reached consensus on draft grades for all areas.
- Council staff compiled Council's comments from the workshop into a summary of analysis to accompany grades.
- Council staff shared draft grades with government and community groups for feedback, including updates, corrections, and discussion.
- Chairperson Isabelle Christian and Researcher Jane Ledwell made a presentation and answered questions about the Report Card process for the Council of Deputy Ministers on May 29.
- Council members reviewed all the suggestions for changes from government and community before revising, finalizing, and releasing the grades.

The Pilot Equality Report Card Launch, June 2008

- The final Equality Report Card was released on June 17, 2008, at a news conference during a Council meeting at Stratford Town Hall, Stratford.
- Council members Isabelle Christian, Roseanne Sark, Jane Boyd, and Sue Connolly made comments on Report Card findings at the news conference. Norma Gallant was prepared to help answer media inquiries in French.
- Council representatives provided interviews to media including CBC Television, CBC Radio, Island Radio, K-Rock Radio, and *The Guardian*. All media outlets received a news release.

- Overall Average Grade – **C+**
- Category Grades
    - Making equality a priority – **C+**
    - Women in decision-making – **C+**
    - Family violence prevention – **C**
    - Women's economic status – **D**
    - Supports for caregiving – **C**
    - Access to justice – **B**
    - Women's health – **C**
    - Bonus – **B+** (*For acting collaboratively and supporting diversity and inclusion across government and in relationship with the ACSW.*)
- The final Equality Report Card in English and French versions was published to the Website following the launch. Council staff also sent notices about the publication to women's organizations in other parts of Canada.
- By invitation, Council staff made a presentation on Gender- and Diversity-Based Analysis to senior managers of the Department of Agriculture on July 2.

Preparation for the 2009 Equality Report Card

- The Council struck a sub-committee to lead planning for the 2009 Equality Report Card. This sub-committee set a timeline and established procedures for setting the list of priority recommendations for assessment in 2009.

- All Council members responded to a poll to rank their priority recommendations for 2009. The sub-committee then finalized the list.
- Council staff shared priority recommendations with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
- Council staff met with Melissa MacEachern, Deputy Minister of Tourism, on behalf of the Council of Deputy Ministers, for advice on presenting 2009 Report Card information effectively to government officials.
- Council staff members shared priority recommendations, general criteria for grading, and timelines with Deputy Ministers to ensure ongoing engagement with each department and to confirm that each department had assigned a liaison person for the Report Card. Council staff provided a customized questionnaire for each reporting department and office.
- Council Chairperson and staff prepared a brief on potential budget implications of 2009 priority recommendations and presented this to Provincial Treasurer Wes Sheridan during pre-budget public consultations.
- Council staff members offered individual customized orientation sessions for Report Card liaisons in all departments. Representatives of Environment, Energy and Forestry; Innovation and Advanced Learning; Education and Early Childhood Development; and Tourism requested orientation sessions.
- Council members and staff prepared to receive questionnaire responses by April 17, 2009, and continued their ongoing tracking of announcements and issues related to women's equality and the 2009 Equality Report Card.

Other Research and Policy Work

In addition to developing the Equality Report Card and assessing the priority issues for action in that document, in 2008-2009, Council also submitted briefing documents to a number of public consultation processes that the government had initiated. Council's submissions on these issues build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed with consultation and approval of Council members and, whenever possible, with community organizations with a shared interest in the issue.

Highlights of Other Research and Policy Work, 2008-2009

- Disability Support Services Review Submission (April 10)
- Response to the draft Island Heritage Study (August 13)
- Submission to Consultations on the Smoke-Free Places Act (October 9)
- Submission to the Yearly Review of the Minimum Wage Order (November 17)
- Notes for a Town Hall on the January 2009 Federal Budget (January 6)
- Review of Priority Action Areas in the 2009 Equality Report Card for 2009 Provincial Budget Consultations (February 4)
- Advice to the Public Kindergarten Commissioner (February 6)

Information and Education

Enquiries and Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals, groups, and government on a variety of questions and issues. These range from requests for statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and requests for advocacy. People make enquiries in person, by telephone, by e-mail, and by correspondence. Requests for information in crisis or advocacy situations are often complex calls from women who have tried to get information or service without success. The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women; however, it offers support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual enquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Enquiries

- Enquiries related to provincial government policies or programs included concerns about violence and stalking; sexual harassment and degradation; inadequate affordable housing and the need for women-only rental housing (especially for seniors); access to abortion services and referrals; custody and

access concerns and issues with Maintenance Enforcement; gaps in the day-care subsidy between leaving work and return to studies; division of marital property issues; concern about possible sexist content in a provincially sponsored ad; lack of statistics about women-owned businesses and about women with post-secondary education; programs for women in business; lack of statistics on violence against women; problems for seniors to access disability supports; unkind behaviour from Social Services workers; concern that violence against men was not highlighted on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; lack of supports for mental health and loss of rights for people with mental illness or intellectual disability who are appointed with guardians; mail from a provincial official addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Husband's Name."

- National and inter-provincial issues identified by callers included Employment Insurance reform and Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Legislation.
- General enquiries covered issues including licensing issues with professional associations; fishy firing practices; questions on employment equity; women under-represented in applications for arts/music grants; proposals of what women can/should do to end violence against women; concern about depictions of women in the media, especially in advertising, in local publications; DES daughters' health concerns.

- Referrals were frequently made to the PEI Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so.
- Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent.

MEDIA

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to media requests for comment and analysis on issues that affect the lives of women and families. Ordinarily, the approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Researcher/Policy Analyst.

List of News Releases, 2008–2009

- Government Taking Small Steps Towards Women's Equality (June 17)
- Federal Election Door-Hanger Released (for PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, September 25)
- Most Parties Are Paying Attention to Women (October 8)
- Poster Men Wanted (October 22)
- All Policies Must Consider Women (November 18)
- Launch of 2008 Purple Ribbon Campaign (November 25)

List of Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2008–2009

- Local Women's Organization Leads the Way (May 10)
- Brutality against Women Unacceptable in Ad (November 21)
- Making Men Allies in Ending Violence Against Women (December 12)

Interview Requests, 2008–2009

- **Background discussions with CBC reporters and producers**: Advice on possible female participants in live broadcast of "GO" (June); possible additional stories to watch emerging from the Equality Report Card (June); funding changes for crime prevention activities (March)
- **CBC Radio**: women candidates in federal election (September 24); Poster Men project (October 31); minimum wage and poverty reduction (January 5)
- **CBC TV**: coverage of our participation in Coalition for Women in Government event on work/life balance for politicians (November 13); provincial government water-cooler policy (March 3)
- **CFCY Radio**: Livable Income election door hanger project (September 25)
- ***The Guardian***: why Purple Ribbon focuses on women (November 19); women in the Arts, International Women's Day (March 8)
- ***Kwimu Messenger***: consultation with federal representatives (September 9)

Website

- Status of Women staff members independently manage the content of the ACSW Website through InfoPEI, providing up-to-date information about the Council and its activities.
- Whenever possible, publications are made available on-line at the Website as soon as they are released.
- The Advisory Council Website is available at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

Blog

- The ACSW set up an interactive weblog in October 2007.
- From April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009:
    - Status of Women staff members added **over 300** new posts and pages to the blog.
    - People made **18,196** visits to the blog. The blog averaged **50** visits a day and received **593** visits on its busiest day, December 4, 2008.
    - The most visited page was "Men, Take a Stand with Us," with **4,100** visits; there were an additional **850** visits to individual men's posters. Community Notices received **1,900** visits. Election analysis of federal parties' platforms and links to the parties' platforms received **1,000** visits. About **450** people visited the 2008 Purple Ribbon page, and about **250** viewed the Equality Report Card post.
    - People found the blog using search terms such as "report card," "equality," "purple ribbon," and "pei status of women" or through searches for federal party platforms or individual people referred to on the blog. The most-used referring sites to our blog were our own InfoPEI website, the *Guardian* website, peiblogs.com, Facebook links, other Wordpress links (including our own), and peiinfo.com and peiinfo.ca.
- The blog is available at http://peiacsw.wordpress.com

Voters' Guides to the Issues

As part of its legislated mandate to inform and educate the public on the status of women in Prince Edward Island, the Advisory Council shares analysis and key questions on issues with voters during provincial and federal elections, referendums, and plebiscites. In 2008–2009, there was a federal election on October 14. The PEI Status of Women released a detailed comparative analysis of political parties' promises on a range of issues identified in the National Coalition of Advisory Councils' 2008 publication, "Expect Equality Every Day."

Initiatives to Inform and Educate Voters

- Council researched, consulted on, and released the publication, "What to Expect on Women's Equality: Comparing National Party Platform Promises for Women," a table with promises from each cross-Canadian party's platform promises and Council analysis on a range of issues under 12 themes.
- A news release, "Most Parties Are Paying Attention to Women" (October 8), summarized key findings.
- The on-line publication helped attract more than 900 visits to the PEIACSW blog in the week leading up to the election and became the most visited post on the site to that point. It received positive feedback from organizations including YWCA Canada and members of the national Policy Action Research List (PAR-L).

- Through their role in the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, Council staff also helped develop and distribute a bilingual election door hanger drawing attention to policy issues for low-income Canadians. A news release about the door hanger also went out from the Working Group. This publication was widely circulated in hard copy and on-line and received national attention for the Working Group from the Canadian Women's Health Network, the Canadian Council for Social Development, and others.

Council Activities Updates

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They receive Council publications, including occasional *Activities Updates*. The approximately 250 members of the electronic mailing list receive a weekly listing of community events and notices. These weekly community notices are also available to the general public through the Status of Women's blog: peiacsw.wordpress.com

The Advisory Council also regularly tries to send notes of congratulation to individual women and groups who have achieved great things or made a difference in their communities.

Council's new e-mail address is the following: peistatusofwomen@eastlink.ca

***Activities Updates*, 2008–2009**

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2008
- *Activities Update,* International Women's Day 2009

Mail-outs, 2008–2009

- Equality Report Card (June 2008)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 2008)
- International Women's Day and Women's Work(s) materials (February 2009)

Community Liaison

Meetings and Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council.

Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence on issues of concern.

Selected Meetings, 2008–2009

- Council Chairperson meetings with Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (June 13, October 14)
- Executive Director meeting with Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy (January 9)
- Executive Director briefing for Senator Catherine Callbeck (regular, by phone)
- Executive Director and staff meeting with Olive Crane, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Opposition researcher Mary MacQuaid (September 19)
- Check-ins with Michelle Harris-Genge, Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (May 8, May 15, July 2, October 7, November 18)
- Check-ins with Michelle MacCallum, ED of Women's Network (May 28, September 17, December 9, February 10)
- Consultations with numerous women's organization representatives

- Meeting with Jill MacMicken-Wilson, PEI Archivist/Chair, Public Records Committee (by telephone, July 23)
- Presentation to Treasury Board representative Margaret Simpson and Women's Secretariat Director Michelle Harris-Genge (August 18)
- Meeting with Min. Carolyn Bertram, Communities, Cultural Affairs, and Labour, with representatives of the PEI Public Transit Coalition (October 7)
- Meeting with lawyer and assistance preparing documents re: a woman's College of Physicians and Surgeons complaint (October 16)
- Presentation to government Strategic Planning Committee, with representatives of the PEI Public Transit Coalition (November 5)
- Consultation with representatives of all Atlantic Advisory Councils on the Status of Women about women in leadership initiatives (November 13)
- Meeting with Deputy Minister of Tourism Melissa MacEachern regarding the 2009 Equality Report Card (January 12)
- Meeting with research and communications staff in the Official Opposition Office in follow-up to the 2008 Equality Report Card (March 18)

Selected Correspondence on Issues, 2008–2009

- Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women are supported by a memorandum outlining issues and presenting analysis for her consideration. Issues covered in June and October memoranda included ideas for reconstituting the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence

Prevention; follow-up on application of Woman Abuse Protocols and creation of new ones; support for Island-wide public transit; concern about women's shelters and the Smoke-Free Places Act; requests for updates on government initiatives including the caucus of women MLAs, a domestic violence court option, and a proposed Office of Public Engagement; and updates on Council work (Equality Report Card, enquiries, publications, meetings, and events).

- An additional February 13 letter to the Minister provided updates after a long period without meetings. Topics covered in the letter included meeting plans for the Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women; request for updates on reconstituting the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention; thanks for inclusion in a new Gender-Based Analysis advisory committee; and updates on recent Council work (Equality Report Card, presentation to pre-budget consultations, advice to the Public Kindergarten Commissioner, financial update, recent publications, and Purple Ribbon Campaign) and upcoming events (International Women's Day, Women's Work(s) art promotion).
- Letter to all MLAs encouraging support for Minister Docherty's motion on increased gender-based analysis across government (April 17)
- Contributions to responses to advance questions for Prince Edward Island as part of the UN Review of Canada's 6th/7th Report on CEDAW (Convention on the Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) (April 18)
- Letter of follow-up and thanks to Council of Deputy Ministers (May 29)

- Letter of follow-up and thanks to Olive Crane, Leader of the Official Opposition (September 19)
- Letter of follow-up and thanks to Min. Carolyn Bertram on behalf of the Public Transit Coalition (October 9)
- Congratulations and gift to Gail Shea on winning a seat in the House of Commons (October)
- Letter and submission to nominate a Council member for a Human Rights Award (November)
- Letter of clarification to Minister Docherty and CBC Radio regarding inaccuracies or misrepresentations in a news report on domestic violence statistics (December 2)
- Letter of support for Women in Environmental Sustainability project on women's role in fisheries management (November 26)
- Letter to Scouts Canada with background information about the Purple Ribbon Campaign, in support of their distribution of ribbons during Family Violence Prevention Week (January)
- Letter and timeline for Min. Carolyn Bertram outlining past community input and advocating updates to the Employment Standards Act, on behalf of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income (January 9)
- Letter to Public Kindergarten Commissioner Pat Mella (February 6)
- Letter of reference for a Council member (January 5)

- Letter of follow-up and thanks to MLA Cynthia Dunsford (Women's Caucus Chair) for consultation with Council Executive (February 25)
- Letter of support for research project by Marie Burge, Cooper Institute, on behalf of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income (March 19)
- Letter to CARI regarding an incident at the MacLauchlan Arena (March 24)
- Letter and submission to Order of PEI selection committee, nominating a former Council member (March 27)
- **On-line surveys and print questionnaires:** on childcare (July); small organization succession planning (March 18); ASHRA evaluation (March 25)
- **Interviews with and/or questionnaire responses for student researchers**: on Council history (June 25); on Women's Network's Atlantic Parental Benefits project (July 17); on family violence (January 14); on women's transition shelters (March 24)

Selected Publications Consulted On, 2008–2009

- Coalition for Women in Government's survey on work/life balance (October)
- Atlantic Seniors' Housing Research Policy Working Group documents (all year)
- Content proposal for updated women's statistical profile (December)
- CLIA documents associated with Criminal Code Revisions and New Provincial Legislation: Public Legal Information for Victims of Crime (ongoing)
- Women for Environmental Sustainability's Report *At the Table: Exploring Women's Roles in the PEI Fisheries* (February and March)

Community & Government Consultations

In 2007, Council members initiated formal community consultations, focusing on groups of women that work on behalf of rural women and women under-represented in provincial debate.

In addition, Council members requested and were granted additional funding to support them to meet more frequently, as a full Council, with elected officials in the province.

Community Consultations, 2008–2009

- **East Point Women's Institute Consultation, June 3, 2008**
- **Canoe Cove Women's Institute Consultation, October 6, 2008**
  Council ED and Purple Ribbon Coordinator met with members of the East Point and Canoe Cove Women's Institute to learn more about the work of local Women's Institutes, to discuss the mandate and work of the Status of Women, and to consult on 2008 plans for the Purple Ribbon Campaign.
- **Equality-Seeking Groups Consultation, November 6, 2008**
  The full Council hosted a pinning bee and round-table conversation about equality issues with a number of women equality-seekers from community organizations across the Island. Women talked about their own connection to feminist thinking and told stories about where women's equality-seeking work has been and where it is going on PEI; discussed the challenges of funding equality work; marked some milestones and some real improvements in some services and supports; and reflected on ongoing and emerging issues that

related to violence, poverty, birthing options, reproductive choice, women and the environment, women-only spaces, young girls' self-esteem, and the profound need for equality for vulnerable groups of women. Council members and guests talked a lot about the value of gathering, sharing, learning, and working together as women.

- **Acadian Community Consultation, March 11, 2009**
  The full Council hosted a luncheon consultation with members of the Acadian community in Wellington. Council heard about issues Acadian women see in their community: need for seniors' housing, assisted living, and nursing care in the Acadian community, so seniors won't have to move to Summerside and lose connections with their caregivers and their linguistic and cultural community; out-migration of youth and people of all ages from the community; pressures on care-givers left behind when people leave; lack of livable income for women, and especially Francophone women; and pressures on young women, in the region and everywhere, to conform to codes of behaviour and dress.

Government Consultations, 2008–2009

- **Federal Representatives Consultation, August 27, 2008**
  All of Council and staff met with federal representatives at an informal luncheon hosted by Senator Catherine Callbeck. Council members shared their experiences, ideas, and opinions with Senator Callbeck, her colleague Senator

Libbe Hubley, MP Shawn Murphy, MP Lawrence MacAulay, MP Wayne Easter, and their staff (as well as staff representatives for retiring MP Joe McGuire). Council members presented the federal representatives with copies of "Expect Equality Every Day" that highlights actions women expect the federal government to take to support women's equality: funding quality early childhood care and education, eliminating violence against women, funding legal support for family break-ups, committing to affordable and appropriate housing, ensuring livable income for women and families, increasing female political leaders, ensuring equal rights for Aboriginal women, and supporting women's groups working towards equality in Canada and worldwide.

- **Women's Caucus Consultation, February 12, 2009**
  Council Executive held a consultation with MLA Cynthia Dunsford, Chair of the Women's Caucus, to discuss current issues for women MLAs and strategic directions for the Status of Women Council in enhancing effective communications with MLAs to influence public policy.
- **Acadian Community Consultation, March 11, 2009**
  The Council's luncheon consultation with members of the Acadian community in Wellington included the local MLA, Sonny Gallant. Council took the opportunity to let him know more about our mandate and work and to invite his insights into ways to enhance communication with MLAs.

Events

Advisory Council members and staff participate in community-led events whenever possible. The Advisory Council's role at events is often to bring a gender and diversity perspective to the event: to share research and perspectives on how the issues being discussed may affect women differently from men or positively or negatively affect diverse groups.

Selected Events, 2008–2009

- Public consultation on the Disability Support Services Review (April 2)
- Publication launch of Bridging Public Investment and Social Value by Barbara Groome-Wynne, Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network (April 7)
- Presentation "Poverty in Canada" by Rob Rainer, ED of the National Anti-Poverty Organizations (April 14)
- Birth Options Research Network "BORN Springs to Life" Event (April 19)
- Official Opening of the Jean Canfield Building, Charlottetown (April 25)
- Consultation by the Red Cross for its "Strategy 2015" (April 29)
- CUPE Memorial Service for Donalda MacDonald – *as a presenter* (May 3)
- Rally by Islanders for the Safe Transmission of Power (ISTOP) (May 13)
- RCMP/Citizenship and Immigration Canada Awareness Session on Human Trafficking: A Collective Response (May 14)
- Conference Call Reviewing New Funding Guidelines for Status of Women Canada Women's Program (May 21)

- Public talk on Family Law (May 29)
- Atlantic Council for International Co-operation "Influencing Public Policy" Workshop (June 6)
- Workshop on Recent Criminal Code Amendments (June 13)
- Roll-out Event for ENTRA feasibility study on Island-wide Public Transit, Stratford (June 26)
- Annual General Meeting of Transition House Association (June 26)
- Panel on "Defining Gender Roles," 8th International L.M. Montgomery Conference – *as a panel moderator* (June 27)
- Official Opening of the Chief Mary Bernard Memorial Women's Shelter, Lennox Island (July 15)
- Local Consultation by Stéphane Dion on "Green Shift" Implications – *as a presenter* (July 18)
- Status of Women Canada Funding Announcement for Women's Network and Adventure Group projects (July 23)
- Meeting on Canada's Report to the UN on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (August 6)
- Book Launch of *Voice of the Community* (September 18)
- Presentation by the Council for Early Child Development (September 23)
- Anniversary Celebration "Recognizing 10," PEI Institute of Adult and Community Education (September 29)
- Rally for female national political leader Elizabeth May (October 3)

- Presentation on Early Child Development by Dr. Fraser Mustard and Margaret Norrie McCain (October 6)
- Equal Voice's "Take Our Girls to Vote" Campaign (October 14)
- Stand Up Against Poverty Rally (October 17)
- PEI Business Women's Association "Red, White, and Blue Networking and Fundraising Event" (October 17)
- Symons Lecture by Chief Justice Beverley McLauchlin (October 21)
- Stephen Lewis Keynote Address for Women's Waves Initiative (October 8)
- "Whose Job Is It Anyway?: The Work and Life of an MLA" Coalition for Women in Government Workshop – *as a presenter* (November 13)
- UPEI Diversity Office Gender and Sexuality Violence Memorial (November 28)
- YWCA Beyond Shelter Walls Regional Consultation, Halifax, NS (December 1)
- Federation of Labour Rally for a Progressive Coalition Government - *as emcee* (December 3)
- Cooper Institute Workshop on Domestic Fair Trade (December 4)
- Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network Lunch and Learn - *as a facilitator of one session* (December 12)
- Town Hall on the January 2009 Federal Budget - *as a presenter* (January 6)
- Food Security Network Community Consultation with Frances Moore Lappe (January 7)
- Community Organizations' Local Consultation on Human Rights, for the UN Universal Periodic Review of Canada (January 15)

- UPSE photo shoot for recipients of community project funding – *as a recipient for the Purple Ribbon Campaign* (January 19)
- Public Kindergarten Commissioner Public Information Session (January 28)
- Family Violence Prevention Services Community Kitchen Workshop on Images of Women in Advertising - *as the presenter* (January 30)
- East Prince Family Violence Prevention Outreach Services Luncheon for Family Violence Prevention Week (February 11)
- "Ways to Eradicate Economic Poverty on PEI" Seminar (February 19)
- "Sowing the Seeds: Food Security for PEI" – *as a recorder* (February 24)
- UPEI "Resilience and Dreams" Series Presentation on Women and Water Rights, by Maude Barlow (March 4)
- Seniors and Population Aging Research Seminar (March 6)
- Food Security Network Policy Workshop, *Growing the Island Way – as a co-facilitating member of the organizing committee* (March 23)
- Food Security Network Forum with Guests from La Via Campesina – *as a recorder* (March 31)

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships involve commitment to participate in the work of coalitions, task forces, research projects, and other community or collectively led activities. Council's policy development process relies on collaboration with and advice from organizations that are leading change on issues important to women and families. Sometimes, Council uses partnerships as a means of educating groups in the community about gender-based analysis and women's experiences and perspectives. Participating actively as partners on projects is also an important way that the Advisory Council contributes to other community groups' ability to do their work: the Advisory Council has a responsibility to help press forward recommendations over the longer term for groups that have short-term or project-based funding.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2008-2009

- **Ad Hoc Provincial Human Rights Consultative Group**: Council's ED and/or Researcher/Policy Analyst sit on this occasional committee of provincial officials who contribute suggestions for PEI's reports and reviews on various United Nations human rights conventions.
  ACSW role: Providing input on women's rights as implicated under UN conventions; contributing to discussions regarding conventions including the

Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Adult Education Advisory Committee**: Council's Chairperson sits on this Holland College-led committee to provide advice on programs for adult education through the College.
  ACSW role: Attending twice-yearly meetings and providing advice from a community and gender perspective on directions for adult education.
- **Atlantic Parental Benefits Advisory Committee:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst took part in an advisory capacity on Women's Network PEI's groundbreaking Atlantic Parental Benefits project on maternity and parental benefits. The project ended early in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Council's Chairperson wrote a letter to the editor to praise the project and help share its research findings and key recommendations with the general public.
- **Atlantic Seniors' Housing Research Alliance**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on the Policy Working Group of this Mt. St. Vincent University-led community/university research alliance to look at seniors' housing needs.
  ACSW role: Participating in monthly teleconferences and occasional local stakeholder meetings; contributing gender analysis and perspectives on seniors' housing issues; analyzing quantitative and qualitative data with policy implications; offering feedback, with a gender lens, on draft publications.
- **Circles of Safety and Support**: The Council ED sits on the advisory committee for this Status of Women Canada-funded project to create circles of

community support and safety around identified women who face very serious risk of violence. The project also creates training opportunities for the volunteers who form the support circles.
ACSW role: Attending regular meetings; advising on project directions; identifying potential participants in training; promoting the project and community participation in its activities.

- **Gender-Based Analysis Advisory Committee**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst was appointed by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to sit on this new committee to look at best practices and training opportunities for gender-based analysis within the provincial government.
- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committee:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women, with a preference to organizations that do not receive core funding.
ACSW role: Helping to design assessment tools; reviewing applications; helping the committee to decide on recommendations.
- **Justice Options for Women**: The Council ED serves on the advisory committee for this project, which creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice, in the context of justice options, for

women victims of violence, as a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI.
ACSW role: Participating in meetings to set directions and develop project plans and funding applications.

- **LEAF National and LEAF PEI (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund):** Council ED and staff provide continuity in the local link to LEAF, a leading national equality and legal-related organization. LEAF works towards ensuring the law guarantees substantive equality for all women in Canada and has since 1985 intervened in over 150 cases to help establish landmark legal victories for women on issues such as violence against women, sexual assault, workplace inequities, socio-economic rights, and reproductive freedoms.
ACSW role: Coordinating local meetings; providing in-kind supports to LEAF PEI as needed; providing annual update on PEI LEAF activities for national AGM; assisting with ED evaluation and selection for Leadership Awards; collaboratively developing project and funding applications; co-hosting events.
- **Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention**: The Council ED (and, when possible, Purple Ribbon Coordinator) sit on this task force which works with the community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol.
ACSW role: Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects; providing graphic design and content for signs, pins, decals, cards, and other materials.

- **PEI Coalition for Women in Government**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst sits as a non-partisan member on this multi-partisan coalition that works to increase the number and proportion of women in elected positions in PEI.
  ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans and to contribute to creating, polishing, and disseminating research, media work, and publications.
- **PEI Food Security Network**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst participates in this new action and education network to improve Islanders' food security (access to adequate affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food within a food system that supports producers).
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings, workshops, and events; contributing gender analysis; serving on a Network working group; assisting with the Website; assisting with note-taking and reports as needed.
- **PEI Poverty Reduction Network**: Council's ED and Researcher/Policy Analyst sit on this new Network which came about following consultations on poverty initiated by Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy. The Network includes anti-poverty and equality-seeking community organizations, provincial and federal government representatives, labour groups, and business organizations. The Network aims to initiate projects and actions to reduce poverty on PEI.
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings; contributing analysis and perspectives on women's poverty on PEI; consulting and advising on proposed projects.
- **PEI Public Transit Coalition**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on the steering committee of this coalition to advocate for Island-wide public transit.

ACSW role: Attending steering committee meetings every two months, ensuring the Coalition maintains an understanding of gender and equality dimensions of transit issues; advising on projects and publications, participating in briefs to government, and promoting public transit.

- **PEI Working Group for a Livable Income**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to counter poverty and advocate for livable income for all Islanders. *ACSW role*: Participating in monthly meetings and occasional special events or presentations; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking minutes for meetings; taking our turn with other organizations to draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government.
- **Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (PAC)**: In the past, Council's Executive Director was appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating the implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. *ACSW role*: This committee was inactive this year, though its budget still included support for the Purple Ribbon Campaign. Council advocated for its reconstitution and reinvigoration with a fresh mandate.
- **Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network**: Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst is part of the PEI sub-node of this Mt. St. Vincent University-led community/university research alliance. The PEI group's focus is Empowerment and Inclusion, with an emphasis on gender.

ACSW role: Participating in regular meetings to allocate funding for local research; participating in the Network's learning events; reporting on Council's social economy-related projects and publications; acting as a partner on gender-related research projects proposed by equality-seeking groups that are part of the Network (offering letters of support, assisting with research design, providing editorial advice and services, and so on).

- **STEPS**: The Council ED serves on the steering committee for this new project involving leaders from selected organizations who work with or on behalf of vulnerable female populations, to participate in a three-year training program on conflict resolution and initiate community projects.
- **Together in Courage Committee**: See *Leadership in Annual Events: International Women's Day* in this report.
- **Victim Services Advisory Committee**: Council's ED co-chairs this committee to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime. *ACSW role*: Co-chairing committee; sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.
- **Women's Work(s) Art Project Committee**: See *Community Liaison: Sponsored Events* on page 52 of this report.

Sponsored Project: Women's Work(s)

Initiated by the Executive Director, the Advisory Council began work in 2009 as a sponsor of the Women's Work(s) Art Promotion and Fundraiser. To celebrate women's art and women's work(s), the event will showcase 40 jury-selected female visual artists of PEI, each of whom will receive a commission for art supplies to create a work on the theme of women's work. These creations will be displayed in the concourse of the Confederation Centre of the Arts in July. To raise funds, the art promotion will culminate in a July 12, 2009, art auction fundraiser benefiting artists and raising funds for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services for Anderson House Women's Shelter. More information about the Women's Work(s) project is available online at womensworks.wordpress.com

Selected Activities in Support of Women's Work(s), 2008–2009

- Beginning in 2008, Council members and staff offered institutional backing for volunteer Project Coordinator Dianne Porter's fundraising initiatives, which led to financial support for the project from major donors Sen. Catherine Callbeck, Patricia Schurman, and Anne Smith.
- Beginning in January 2009, the PEI Status of Women office has served as a home base for project coordination, providing an in-kind donation of services including office space for the Artistic Coordinator, meeting space, telephone and computer access, and mailing address.

- Council staff offered advice and support for project development, the arts jurying process, event logistics, website support, and communications and promotions.
- Council has assisted in promoting Women's Work(s) in community notices and newsletters, by including Women's Work(s) materials in mailouts, and by linking to the Women's Work(s) website.

Leadership in Annual Events

Equality Day

Equality Day, April 18, marks the implementation of Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Section 15 states that "every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Highlights from Equality Day, 2008

- Status of Women staff, on behalf of the PEI branch of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), organized an Equality Day panel discussion on balancing work, life, and family. The presenters, Sue Connolly (Council member), Jacinta Gallant, and Kirstin Lund (past Council Chairperson), all trained as lawyers and have an active interest in women's equality issues. The event helped increase membership in LEAF PEI.

Persons Day

October 18 each year recognizes the date that women in Canada were first acknowledged as "persons" under the law in 1929, after the efforts of pioneering women. Being declared "persons" made women eligible for Senate appointments and other legal rights.

Highlights from Persons Day, 2008

- PEI Status of Women and LEAF PEI (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund) welcomed women to a brown-bag lunch and casual conversation on October 15, the day following the federal election. This event was held at the PEI Status of Women office, and half a dozen women came by for lunch, including past Council Chairperson Barb Currie and representatives from Cooper Institute, the PEI Council of People with Disabilities, and the Office of the Official Opposition.
- Council was grateful for official recognitions of Persons Day from our elected representatives. We noted that Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty and Leader of the Official Opposition Olive Crane each sent out a release acknowledging the occasion.
- While in Ottawa on Council business, Isabelle Christian, Lisa Murphy, and Jane Ledwell also took part in a Persons Day tea on Parliament Hill.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in the effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes a noontime December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2008

- Theme for the year: Men, Take a Stand with Us
- Number of ribbons/cards distributed: 21,000 bilingual information cards, with 4,000 reserved for distribution during Family Violence Prevention Week
- Publications: In addition to the information card, four bilingual information sheets were available
    - What every man can do to help end men's violence against women
    - Where violent men can get help on PEI
    - Profile of an abuser
    - About the Campaign and Memorial Service(s)

- As part of this year's Campaign, over **170** men volunteered photographs of themselves to be used on individual posters bearing the pledge, "I stand with you to end violence against women and children."
- Posters were put up on the Status of Women blog and were printed and displayed during the Memorial Service in Charlottetown.
- The PEI Status of Women held a Pinning Bee at Beanz Espresso Bar on October 29 and at its November 6 meeting combined a Pinning Bee with a consultation among equality-seeking groups.
- The Campaign was launched with a News Conference on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Speakers were Chairperson Isabelle Christian, coordinator Sandy Kowalik, Premier Robert Ghiz, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty, and Leader of the Official Opposition Olive Crane. On the same day, Minister Docherty presented a statement about the Campaign and violence against women to the Legislature.
- The Interministerial Women's Secretariat coordinated distribution of ribbons to all workers in the civil service this year.
- Media covered the Poster Men project (CBC Radio *MainStreet*); the campaign launch (CBC Television *Compass*; *Guardian*); and the Memorial Service (CBC TV and CTV, CBC Radio *MainStreet*; *Guardian*). *La Voix Acadienne* published a two-page spread on the Campaign as a whole.

- Isabelle Christian's commentary, "Making Men Allies in Ending Violence Against Women," ran in the *Guardian* on December 8.
- The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on Friday, December 5, in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. About 200 people attended the Charlottetown noontime service.
    - Participants in the service included Isabelle Christian, Chairperson, and Sister Norma Gallant, Council Member (co-emcees); David Morrison (music); Cindy Banks (reader); Sandy Kowalik (speaker); Philip Smith (keynote speaker); Allan Rankin (music).
    - Candle-lighters included Lieutenant-Governor Barbara Hagerman, Premier Robert Ghiz, Hon. Valerie Docherty, RCMP, City police, and members of equality-seeking groups.
    - All the "poster men" posters were displayed. Small votive candles were also available for individuals to light.
    - Eileen Leclair, from UPSE's Equality Committee, brought nine "Silent Witnesses" to the event. These powerful silhouettes represent PEI women who have been violently murdered.
- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Province of Prince Edward Island, the PEI Teachers' Federation, Federated Women's Institutes of PEI, Quilting Bee & More, Hon. Shawn Murphy, Sen. Percy Downe, Sen. Catherine Callbeck, Sen. Libbe Hubley, Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 1515, Lori Kays and staff at Beanz Espresso Bar, City of

Summerside, PEI Nurses' Union, Sandra and Harry Gaudet, Dr. Philip Smith, Dr. David Morrison, Cindy Banks, Allan Rankin, Hearts and Flowers, Confederation Centre of the Arts, City of Charlottetown, Town of Cornwall, Maureen Gallagher, Town of Kensington, and the Premier's Action Committee.

- Individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the Campaign were recognized with volunteer awards. In 2007 Frances Handrahan, Judy MacFadyen, and the Quilting B & More were recognized. In 2008 the Confederation Centre of the Arts, Beanz Espresso Café, and PEI Federated Women's Institutes received awards.

Family Violence Prevention Week 2009

- The "Poster Men" project was so successful, the ACSW continued to accept photographs in the lead-up to Family Violence Prevention Week.
- Council ED provided content and design input on several ads and initiatives.
- During Family Violence Prevention Week, the "Poster Men" display toured to the Charlottetown Mall and a Summerside family violence prevention event. The posters were stormed out of their visit to Morell High School. East and West Prince expanded on the poster theme and used their own feature displays as part of wider activities to mark the week.
- In addition to sharing its posters, PEI Status of Women did outreach about violence prevention to Scouts Canada groups and participants in the Spud Minor Hockey Tournament.

International Women's Day

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8 each year. Events on International Women's Day and throughout the week surrounding it recognize the ongoing struggle of women for equity, locally and globally. Often, International Women's Day events and education focus on women's equality in the workplace, since IWD's roots are in the labour movement. For IWD 2009, Council again joined with other grassroots organizations in the Together in Courage Committee, which coordinated events. Council representatives play a special role in graphic design for publications and in event promotion.

Highlights from International Women's Day, 2009

- ACSW staff participated in planning and coordinating a "Leaders Among Us" event with the other members of the Together in Courage Committee. This year, "Leaders Among Us" recognized women champions of the arts.
- This well-attended event took place on Sunday, March 8, at the Charlottetown Hotel and was emceed by MLA Cynthia Dunsford.
- Isabelle Christian, Council Chairperson, and Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, shared words of welcome.
- The celebration included a guest performance by Karen vocalists from Burma, Htoo K'mu and Eh B, a panel discussion on women in the arts, and a reception.

- The panel featured several notable artists in a discussion moderated by publisher Laurie Brinklow. Panellists were as follows:
    - Teresa Doyle
    - Donnalee Downe
    - Vian Emery
    - Sylvie Toupin
    - JoDee Samuelson
    - Jane Ledwell
    - Julia Sauvé
- Isabelle Christian published "The Art of Being a Woman," a reflection for International Women's Day 2009, on the Council website and blog.
- Council promoted IWD events through a mailout and electronically on the ACSW website, blog, and electronic mailing list.
- Additionally, Council coordinated a Women's Art Show and Sale at Beanz Espresso Bar. The open, non-juried show and sale showcased women's visual art to celebrate International Women's Day throughout the month of March. Council promoted the show and the Council ED and project coordinator were on hand at Beanz to set up the show on February 28 and to assist in the show's end on March 29, with regular check-ins during the duration of the show.

Bursaries for Women

Each year, the Advisory Council awards three bursaries for post-secondary education. Two of these bursaries go to two women to help them continue their studies at the University of Prince Edward Island and Holland College. The third bursary, named for late Council vice-chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada. Council staff updated the bursary forms in 2008 to make them clearer to read and easier to complete.

Bursary Recipients

- University of Prince Edward Island Bursary: Andrea Pickett
- Holland College Bursary: Elizabeth Dacombe
- Inge Blackett Bursary: Mabel Hernandez

Publications List

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned above. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

- **The Art of Being a Woman: International Women's Day 2009** (March 2009). *A reflection on women in the arts and women around the world, prepared for International Women's Day 2009.*
- **Submission to the Review of Disability Services** (April 2008). *Why changes to disability support services on PEI should consider the special needs of women with varied abilities.*
- **2008 PEIACSW Equality Report Card for PEI / 2008 Fiche de rendement de l'égalité** (June 2008). *An assessment of government's progress towards women's equality goals on Prince Edward Island.*
- **What to Expect on Women's Equality: Comparing National Party Platform Promises for Women** (October 2008). *A detailed comparative analysis of national party platform promises in response to the issues in Expect Equality Every Day. Released during the 2008 Federal Election campaign.*
- **Submission to Consultations on the Smoke-Free Places Act** (October 2008). *Smoke-free places are great, but we need to make sure women in emergency*

shelters are still safe and protected when legislation tightens up rules about where you can smoke.

- **Submission to the Yearly Review of the Minimum Wage Order** (November 2008). *Support for increases to the Prince Edward Island minimum wage.*
- **Notes for a Town Hall on the 2009 Federal Budget** (January 2009). *Notes for a Town Hall meeting on the January 2009 Federal Budget, presented and submitted at a Town Hall Meeting hosted by Malpeque MP Wayne Easter and Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy on January 6, 2009, in West Royalty.*
- **Advice to the Public Kindergarten Commissioner** (February 2009). *Reflections on Public Kindergarten Commissioner Pat Mella's public information sessions in preparation for her report on integrating kindergarten into the public school system.*
- **Submission on the Provincial Budget 2009** (February 2009). *A summary of possible budget implications for the 2009 Provincial Budget from the priority recommendations featured in the 2009 Equality Report Card project, and notes to introduce a discussion on gender budgetting.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITOR GENERAL

CHARLOTTETOWN

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

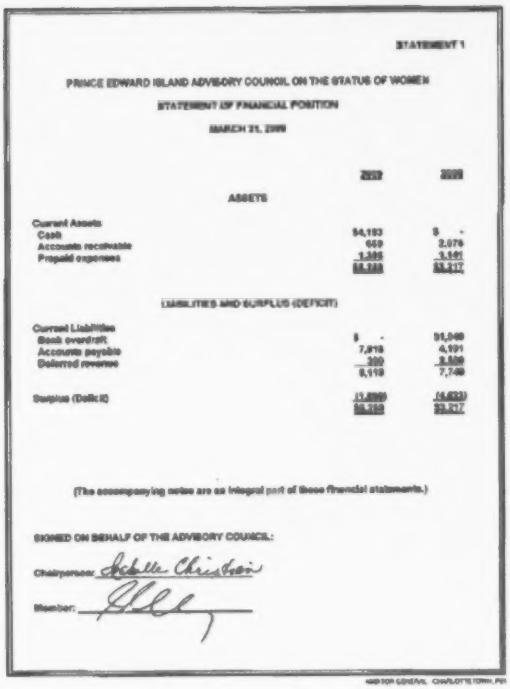
I have audited the statement of financial position of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2000 and the statements of revenues, expenditures and services (deficit) and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain all reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2000 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Colin Younker, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
April 26, 2000



STATEMENT 1

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2009

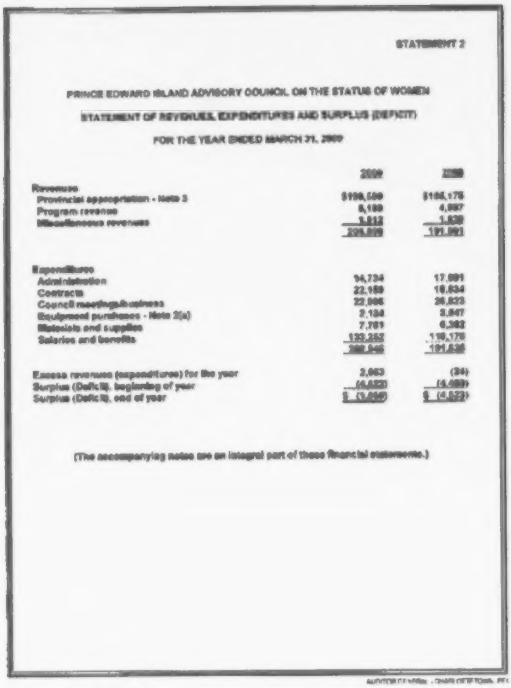
	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$4,193	$ -
Accounts receivable	669	2,076
Prepaid expenses	1,305	3,141
	56,168	53,217
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
Current Liabilities		
Bank overdraft	$ -	$1,049
Accounts payable	7,819	4,191
Deferred revenue	300	2,500
	8,119	7,740
Surplus (Deficit)	(1,899)	(4,523)
	56,168	53,217

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chairperson: Michelle Christian

Member:



STATEMENT 2

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

	2009	2008
Revenues		
Provincial appropriation - Note 3	$199,500	$186,176
Program revenue	5,180	4,987
Miscellaneous revenues	1,812	1,830
	206,819	191,993
Expenditures		
Administration	14,734	17,991
Contracts	22,180	18,634
Council meetings/business	22,906	26,823
Equipment purchases - Note 2(a)	2,134	3,847
Materials and supplies	7,701	6,362
Salaries and benefits	139,283	119,170
	208,946	191,826
Excess revenues (expenditures) for the year	2,063	(34)
Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year	(4,523)	(4,489)
Surplus (Deficit), end of year	$ (1,899)	$ (4,523)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

STATEMENT 3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

	2009	2008
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from Province of PEI	$190,500	$185,175
Cash received from programs	2,000	7,007
Cash received from miscellaneous revenues	1,912	1,939
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(133,630)	(117,040)
Cash paid for materials and services	(66,537)	(78,410)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	5,245	(2,149)
Cash, beginning of year	(1,049)	1,100
Cash (bank overdraft), end of year	$ 4,196	$ (1,049)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

AUDITOR GENERAL - CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2009

1. Purpose of the Organization

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural and political spheres of life.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. Accordingly:

(a) Capital assets are expensed when purchased.

(b) Leases are treated as operating leases and lease costs are expensed as they become due.

3. Provincial Appropriation

The Provincial Appropriation amount of $190,500 includes an operating grant of $186,000 and other provincial grants totalling $3,500.

4. Equipment Lease

A photocopier is leased until September 15, 2011 and the annual lease commitments are $2,304 plus applicable taxes.

5. Pension Costs

Employees of the Council are members of the Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Plan. The employer's share of the plan benefits plus any additional future actuarial liabilities are assumed by the Province of PEI and are not reflected in the Council's financial statements.

6. Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The fair value of the entity's cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their carrying values.

7. Comparative Figures

Certain 2008 figures have been reclassified to conform with the 2009 financial statement presentation.

AUDITOR GENERAL - CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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